

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a chain having two interleaved series of rows of links that include drive links that form two teeth that extend a front direction from the drive link and that accept a sprocket tooth between the teeth of a drive link. Claim 1 has also been amended to require guide links adjacent to the drive links that extend adjacent to the region between the teeth of the drive links. Claim 6 has been amended to recite a chain that includes drive links that define a front side having two teeth for meshing with a front drive sprocket and that define a back side having flanks at opposite ends of the drive link and that is configured to be accepted between adjacent sprocket teeth.

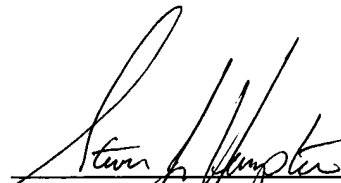
Claims having requirements similar to these, claims 3 and 9, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Luce (U.S. Patent No. 1,201,748) in view of Belcher (U.S. Patent No. 1,956,942). Neither Luce nor Belcher disclose a chain having interleaved series of links including links forming two teeth at a front side of the link. Luce doesn't disclose links forming teeth. Belcher discloses interleaved series of rows of links and that the drive links form two teeth. However, the drive links of each series of rows of links of the Belcher patent face in opposite directions, not in the same front direction as now required by claims 1 and 6. Additionally, the chain disclosed by Belcher has guide links (side guides 3, 4, 9, 10) on opposed sides of every row of links. Belcher does not disclose a chain having guide links of adjacent rows of links on opposite sides of the chain.

Claim 11 is added which requires that the guide link and the drive link are sized to provide uniform stiffness across the row of links recited by claim 1. The specification discloses that links such as guide links that do not form a crotch are stiffer than drive links that form teeth with a crotch between them, as well as the desirability of providing a chain of uniform stiffness. Page 31 lines 13 – 21. Claim 12 is added to require that a plurality of adjacent drive links to provide drive link stiffness that provides uniform stiffness across the row of links. Such a structure is disclosed, for example by Fig. 6.

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Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven J. Hampton", is written over a horizontal line.

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